I. Guiding Question: What concerns or problems currently exist surrounding your issue?

a. Natural Disasters Affect Human’s Emotions

i. Natural disasters happen throughout the world all the time. Sometimes, humans are to blame for the occurrences. We effect the world with our actions, whether it be in a positive or negative manner. And sometimes the world affects us not only physically but emotionally. The natural disasters that occur don’t always just leave behind terrible living conditions but also terrible emotional damage.

1. People often times only feel the sudden effects that natural disasters have on them, such as physical ones. If someone is hurt, people respond to that immediately. If damage is done to property, people can clearly see the problem. But, when it comes to the emotional state of the persons who are involved with natural disasters, the problems are latent and not noticed till later.

a. “Experts who have worked with survivors of disasters ranging from the Boston blizzard of 1978 to the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 agreed that reactions fall into an almost predictable sequence. The initial shock - a stunning sense of astonishment and terror -is followed by euphoria at having survived. The Rev. Frank Reuter, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Coalinga, Calif., site of the devastating earthquake last month, recalled: ''Three hours after it happened I saw people throwing Frisbees and setting up tents and campers.'' Then the elation dissolves rapidly in the face of reality and depression, ranging from mild to extreme, sets in. Finally recuperation begins.”

“According to Dr. Lystad, ''There are six typical initial responses: fear, numbness and shock, confusion and difficulty in making decisions, desire for information, seeking help for oneself and family, and helpfulness to others.''

“Delayed responses, which can surface months later, include, she said, changes in appetite, headaches, inability to sleep, anger, suspicion, apathy, depression, withdrawal from family and friends, disillusionment with official help, and guilt at not having been able to prevent or avoid the emergency.”

b. Melting Of Polar Ice Caps Affects Water Levels

i. Ice caps hold a large portion of the Earth’s water. When ice caps begin to melt due to the rising temperature of the Earth, the sea levels begin to rise as well. This rise in sea levels proves dangerous to certain cities that are located near the coasts. Due to the fact that they may very well be flooded over, causing major damage and land loss.

1. Ice Caps are going to cause cities to disappear underwater.

a. “ Scientists warn that should global warming continue unchecked, it could have a drastic effect on polar ice. Small variations over a short period of time could shrink the ice caps and raise world sea levels. Even a small rise in sea level could affect a large percentage of the world's population, and it could effectively destroy major cities like New York.”

“Scientists believe that the growth of polar ice caps can be triggered by a combination of several global climatic factors. The major element is a small drop (perhaps no more than 15°F [9°C]) in average global temperature. The factors that cause this drop can be very complex and include fluctuations in atmospheric and oceanic carbon dioxide levels, increased amounts of dust in the atmosphere, heightened winds--especially in equatorial areas--and changes in surface ocean currents.”

c. Natural Resources Are Running Low

i. There are only so many natural resources that the Earth contains. We, humans, use them up for our own benefit. Sometimes we run out of these natural resources. It doesn’t mean that there are no more, we have just simply run out of the amount that we can get a hold of. If we continue to do so, then we will no longer have them for our use.

1. "There Isn't Much Cryolite Anymore."

People are beginning to use up the assessable amount of Cryolite so they have began to use the synthetic version of it. Which only shows how humans will use up as much as they can and are still greedy enough to make a different version of it so that they are still capable of it’s use. If we continue to use up these natural resources, we may very well lose a lot more than that.

a. “The last active cryolite mine, located in Greenland, closed in the 1980s, and manufacturers now rely on a synthetic alternative.”

“Resource exhaustion used to be a hot topic among economists. Thomas Robert Malthus predicted in 1798 that land shortages would lead to famine and population collapse. In 1865, William Stanley Jevons predicted that Britain would soon run out of coal, bringing the economy crashing down, and others soon joined the gloomy chorus. “

II. What progress or solutions are emerging?

a. Conservation Of Natural Resources

i. Conservation is such an important topic that can very well lead us to bettering our planet. Conservation of the Earths natural resources is on the mind of many organizations.

1. “Conservation”

a. “From the beginning, American conservation ideas, informed by the science of ecology and the practice of resource management on public lands, spread to other countries and regions. In recent decades, however, the rhetoric of conservation has taken a prominent role in international development and affairs, and the U.S. government has taken a back-seat role in global environmental policy. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are some of today's most visible international conservation organizations.”

“Because of its more moderate and politically palatable stance, conservation became the more popular position by the turn of the century. By 1905, conservation had become a blanket term for nearly all defense of the environment. More Americans had come to live in cities, and to work in occupations not directly dependent upon resource exploitation. The urban population was sympathetic to the idea of preserving public land for recreational purposes and provided much of the support for the conservation movement from the beginning.”

b. Clean Energy Possibilities

i. Clean energy has always been a topic for discussion for many. However coming up with ways for clean energy to be possible is not as easy as it sounds.

1. "THE TEXAS TRIBUNE; Clean Energy Foresees Fight in Texas Legislature."

a. “Clean energy basked in political popularity about a decade ago, as wind farms sprouted atop West Texas mesas. In 2005, Gov. Rick Perry and lawmakers approved a mandate to build 5,880 megawatts of renewable power capacity by 2015. They also backed the construction of billions of dollars’ worth of transmission lines to reach wind farms.”

“Wind groups will also guard against attacks on the renewable energy mandate. Last month, the Public Utility Commission, which regulates the power industry, recommended that lawmakers repeal it. The commission’s chairwoman, Donna Nelson, has criticized wind power for straining the electric grid, an assertion rejected by the industry.”

III. What does the future hold for the issue?

a. People will continue on the path they are on now and destroy the planet.

i. If people do not stop what they are doing now, which is destroying the planet by using up its natural resources, emitting gases that weaken the ozone and raise the temperature and more. People will only hurt themselves. We will lead ourselves to a dark future full of fear and the unknown.

b. People will actually realize what we are doing wrong.

i. People will begin to realize that our planet can only withstand so much. They will stop using up the worlds natural resources and put conservation in the front. Humans will see that if we want to live in a nice world then we must treat the world the right way. Not by taking advantage of it.